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(54) Accessory shoe uppers

(57) An accessory shoe upper for installation over an existing upper of a conventional laced shoe using the same shoelace as used for lacing the shoe. The accessory shoe upper (20) having an upper body extending continuously from a forward point of the shoe rearward along the side of the shoe and around the heel portion

of the shoe and forward again along the other side of the shoe. The accessory shoe upper body features a number of shoelace holes (14) for accommodating the shoelace used for lacing the shoe.

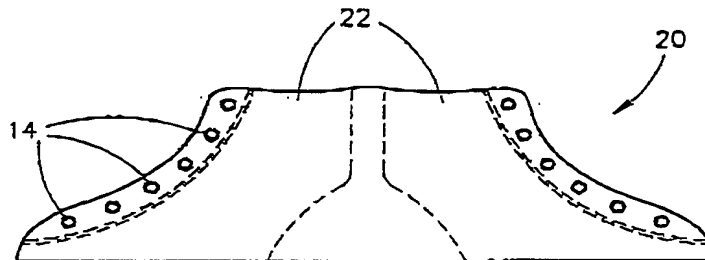


FIG. 2

providing an accessory shoe upper which can readily be fitted over the upper of a shoe by providing the accessory shoe upper with shoelace holes through which a shoelace can be passed to simultaneously lace the shoe and connect the accessory shoe upper to the existing shoe upper

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention is herein described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a side view of a typical conventional shoe; FIG. 2 shows one example of an accessory shoe upper according to the present invention prior to deployment on the shoe;

FIG. 3 shows the shoe of Figure 1 with the accessory upper of Figure 2 in place;

FIG. 4 shows a second example of an accessory shoe upper according to the present invention;

FIG. 5 shows a third example of an accessory shoe upper according to the present invention;

FIG. 6 shows a fourth example of an accessory shoe upper according to the present invention;

FIG. 7 shows a fifth example of an accessory shoe upper according to the present invention;

FIG. 8 shows a sixth example of an accessory shoe upper according to the present invention;

FIG. 9 shows a seventh example of an accessory shoe upper according to the present invention;

FIG. 10 shows an eighth example of an accessory shoe upper according to the present invention;

FIG. 11 shows the shoe of Figure 1 with the accessory upper of Figure 10 in place;

FIG. 12 shows an accessory upper as in Figure but with an additional zipper for attachment to the sole of a shoe;

FIG. 13 shows how an accessory upper of Figure 12 would be attached to the shoe using the zipper

14 through which a shoelace 16 is inserted. Shoelace 16 is used to tighten upper 12 around the foot of the wearer so as to provide a comfortable fit. Typically, upper 12 also features a tongue 18 which underlies shoelace 16 and serves to close the gap between the right and left portions of upper 12.

The present invention is of accessory shoe uppers which can be attached to the existing uppers as described below. Figure 2 shows one such accessory shoe upper 20 as it appears when laid substantially flat. Accessory shoe upper 20 includes an accessory shoe upper body 22 which is dimensioned to fit over at least a portion of the existing upper 12 (Figure 1) of the laced shoe. Accessory shoe upper body 20 features a plurality of shoelace holes 14 for accommodating shoelace 16 used for lacing the shoe.

Figure 3 shows how the shoe might appear when accessory shoe upper 20 is installed over the existing shoe upper 12 with the aid of shoelace 16 which serves the double function of creating a tight fit around the foot of the wearer while simultaneously serving to firmly connect accessory shoe upper 20 to shoe upper 12.

Accessory shoe upper may be made of a variety of materials, textures, colors, designs, and the like. The accessory upper may be flexible or semi-rigid.

Accessory upper 20 may feature one or more cutouts 40 (e.g., Figures 4, 7, 8 and 10) and/or notches 42 (e.g., Figures 5 and 6). Cutouts 40 and notches 42 allow at least a portion of existing upper 12 to be seen through accessory upper 20 and may enhance the overall aesthetic value of the shoe.

Accessory upper 20 may cover substantially the entire rear portion of existing upper 12 (as in Figure 3) or may cover a smaller portion of existing upper 12 (as in Figure 11). As in the case of cutouts and notches, when accessory upper 20 is smaller than the corresponding portion of existing upper 12 the aesthetic appearance of the shoe may be enhanced by providing two textures and/or colors. In certain cases it may be advantageous to provide an accessory upper which is both smaller and features one or more notches and/or cutouts (as in Figures 10 and 11).

In operation, a user would purchase one or more pairs of accessory uppers from a large variety of styles, sizes, materials, textures, colors, and the like. Whenever the user desires to change the appearance of a pair of his or her shoes, all that is required is to remove the shoelaces from the pair of shoes and to relace the shoe with the chosen accessory upper placed directly over the existing shoe upper so that the shoelace is inserted through the shoelace holes of both the shoe and of the accessory upper. Thus, with an effort of but a few minutes, the entire appearance of the shoe is dramatically and inexpensively changed. Furthermore, the change may be reversed at any time by simply removing the accessory upper or the appearance may be changed yet again at any time by replacing the accessory upper with a different accessory upper.

In other embodiments according to the present

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The present invention is of accessory shoe uppers which can be used to readily and easily change the appearance of conventional laced shoes.

The principles and operation of accessory shoe uppers according to the present invention may be better understood with reference to the drawings and the accompanying description.

Referring now to the drawings, Figure 1 illustrates a conventional shoe. The shoe depicted in Figure 1 is an athletic but any shoe can be used with the present invention provided that the shoe is of the type which can be laced using a shoelace. The conventional shoe is made up of two connected portions - a sole 10 and an upper 12. Upper 12 of a laced shoe is typically formed with, or otherwise features, a plurality of shoelace holes

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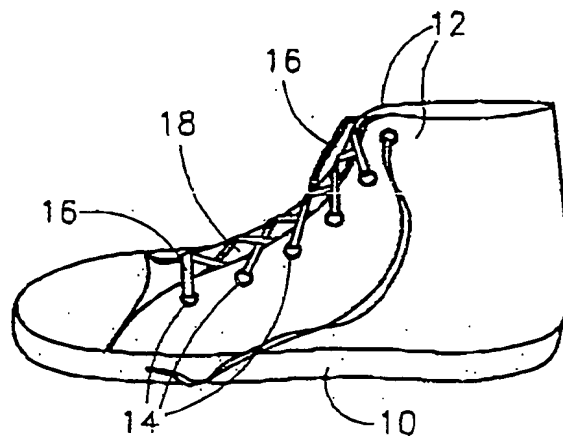
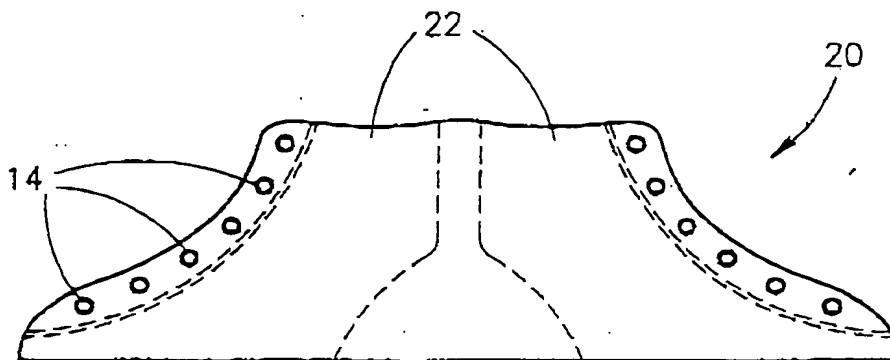
FIG. 1
PRIOR ART

FIG. 2

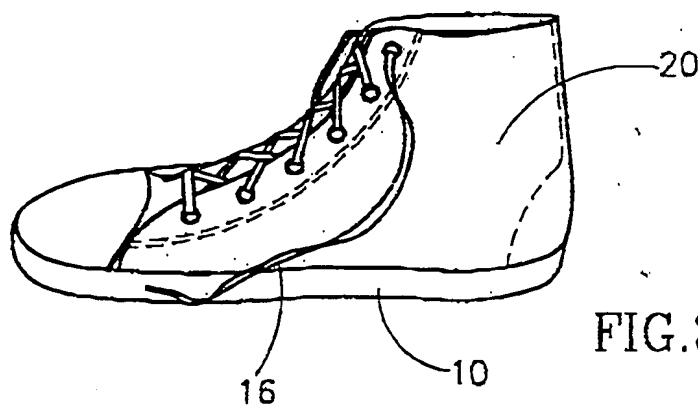
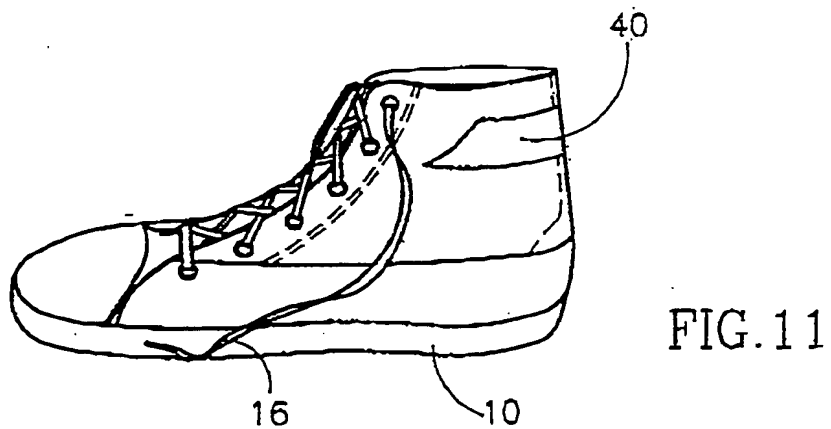
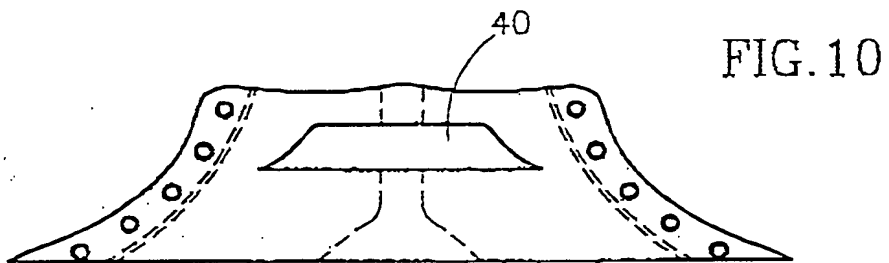
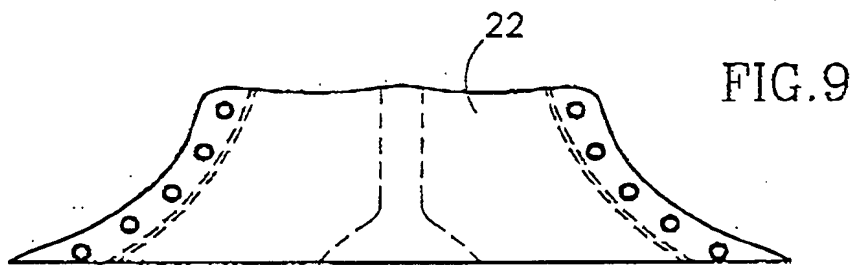
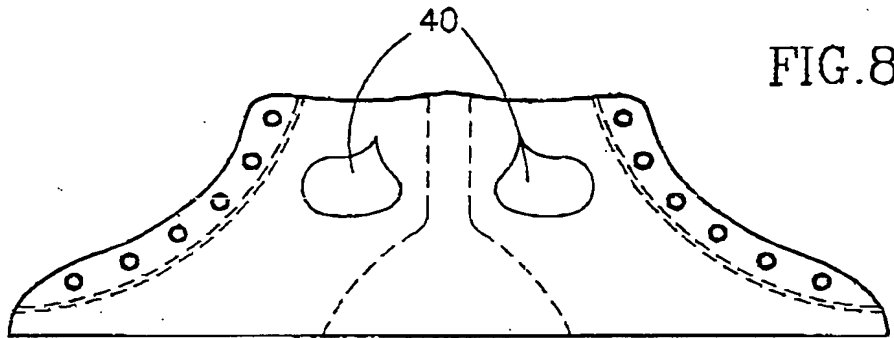


FIG. 3

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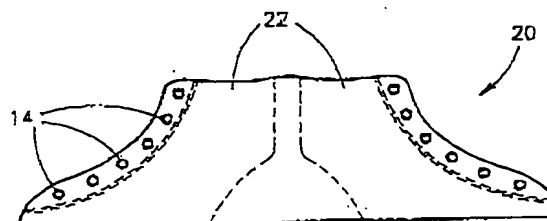


FIG. 2

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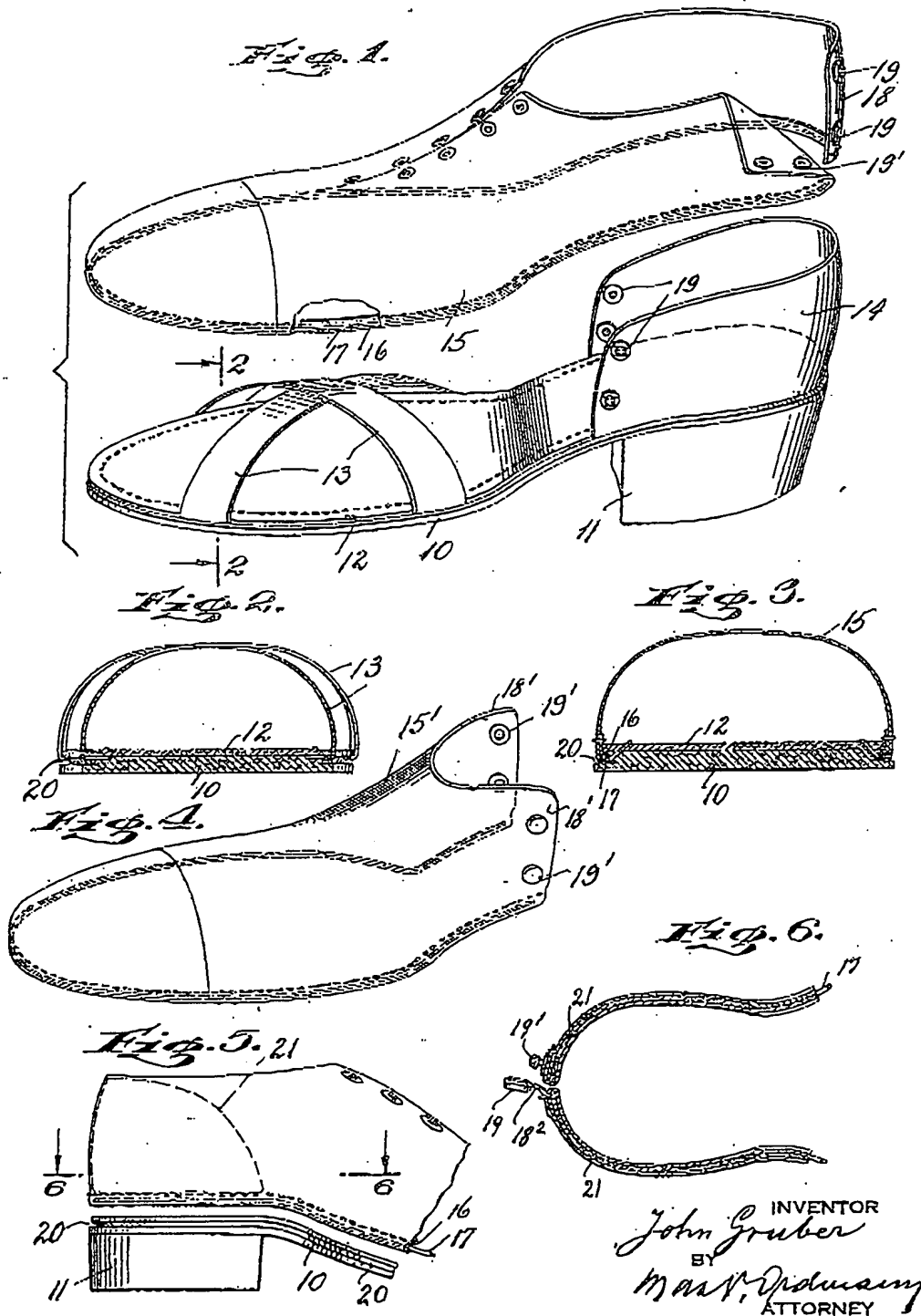
March 25, 1941.

J. GRUBER

2,236,367

SHOE

Filed April 4, 1939



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stiffened as at 21, so that when the loop contracted lower edge of said upper is snapped into engagement with the groove 28 of the outer sole 18 and the free edges 18² are attached to one another by the snap buttons 19, 19', the reinforced or stiffened parts 21 will themselves constitute the upper heel portion of the shoe.

By virtue of this novel construction a shoe may be made with several removable extra uppers as accessories, to be interchangeably slipped over the foot, either to cover the ordinary permanently attached upper or straps, or directly the foot, thus enabling the wearer to quickly convert a house shoe into a shoe for street wear or a shoe of one color or style into another suitable for a particular occasion. Not only will the wearer save much time in making the change, but also expense, since the cost of extra uppers will be considerably less than that of extra complete shoes. The uppers, like spats or gaiters, can be conveniently folded and will, therefore, take up less room than complete shoes. They can also be conveniently carried in one's bag or pocket to be available at a sudden change of weather.

Since other modifications may be made in the construction of the shoe without departing from the principle of my invention, I do not wish to restrict myself to the details described and shown.

What I claim is:

A shoe comprising a sole and heel, an annular groove extending all around the circumferential edge of said sole, a removable upper split at its rear, reinforcing means embedded in the rear portions of said upper, a channel formed at and all around the lower edge of said upper, a resilient open wire loop embedded in said channel and adapted to normally contract said edge and when snapped into said annular groove to tightly connect said upper to said sole, the free ends of said split rear portions of said upper, being adapted to overlap one another when said upper is connected to said sole and fastening means on said free ends for detachably connecting the same to one another.

JOHN GRUBER.